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or, better still, refuse to recommend the addition of any new ships. If Congress follows the lead which the President has given, as we feel almost sure will be the case, the day is not far distant when our country will be happily out of the insensate rivalry in naval armament into which it has been so unfortunately drawn. The sooner the nation is out of it the better, and the present Congress could not do a more patriotic and honorable thing than to put an end to increase of the navy before it adjourns.

The Nobel Peace Laureates for 1909.

On the 10th of December, the anniversary of the birth of Alfred Nobel, the founder of the Nobel Prizes, the Committee of the Norwegian Parliament, which has the administration of the Foundation, again awarded the Peace Prize. The award as usual was made in the Chamber of the Parliament House in the presence of a distinguished company of people, including the King and many of the leading public men of Norway.

The Prize, as has happened several times before, was divided. Half of it was given to Baron d'Estournelles de Constant of France and half to Auguste Beernaert of Belgium. In both cases it was fittingly bestowed, as all who know the recipients will at once concede.

Senator d'Estournelles de Constant's services to the cause of international goodwill and peace have been many and varied. He has been for years a member of the French International Arbitration Society, coöperating heartily with its president, the distinguished French Apostle of Peace, Frédéric Passy, one of the two to receive the prize the first year that it was awarded. Senator d'Estournelles de Constant is the founder of the International Arbitration Group in the French Parliament, the strongest of all the national arbitration groups of statesmen. He has been one of the leaders in the work of the Interparliamentary Union, his report on the subject of armaments being one of the chief features of the conference of the Union at Westminster, London, in the year 1906. He represented France in both the Hague Conferences and is one of the four French members of the International Arbitration Court at The Hague. He is the founder and the president of the Association for International Conciliation, which has branches in this and other countries and is doing much for the promotion of better understanding and friendly relations between the nations. He has been one of the three or four men most prominent in the promotion of international visits of statesmen and others. He himself has visited many countries, including the United States, where his services at the New York National Peace Congress were so warmly appreciated. In France he has been the leader of the opposition to the current ri-

valry of armaments, and both in the Chamber of Deputies and later in the Senate his speeches on this subject have been among the strongest and most constructive delivered anywhere in recent years.

Mr. Beernaert, though not so prominent as Senator d'Estournelles de Constant in distinctive peace work, and more conservative in his views, having been in his earlier years a decided supporter of war, has in his way in recent years done excellent service for the cause; for indirect services in the peace movement are often almost as efficient in the long run as the direct ones. The foremost statesman in Belgium, long president of the Chamber of Deputies, and a member of the Council of Ministers of State, he has made Belgium a power in the councils of international arbitration. He has been president of the International Law Association, and active in its work nearly ever since its organization, thirty-six years ago. He represented his government in both the Hague Conferences and is a member of the Hague Court. In the first Hague Conference he was one of the five or six distinguished men — Baron de Staal, Andrew D. White, Sir Julian Pauncefote, Léon Bourgeois and Frederick de Martens being the others — who gave animus and direction to its work and made it, in the face of many difficulties, a memorable success. It was fitting that Mr. Beernaert, now in advanced life, should have received this high recognition of his great services as a statesman of peace.

We extend our warmest congratulations to both these Nobel Peace Laureates, and commend their tireless, unselfish, and every way noble services to the cause of humanity as an example to the younger men now in political life.

Secretary Meyer's One Mill to the Dollar.

Lucia Ames Mead has replied, in a letter to the *Boston Herald*, to Secretary of the Navy Meyer's effort to show that the United States navy costs a mere bagatelle in comparison with the total wealth of the country. Her letter is as follows:

"TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:

"Secretary Meyer, in his report on the navy, likens it to national 'insurance' — a word which implies payment to make good a loss. As this is something that navies never made, the term is misleading. If, however, we substitute the word 'protection,' which is probably what was meant, the Secretary's argument as to the relative cost of the navy to the wealth it protects seems even more misleading. Taking the valuation of the total wealth of the country, he shows an average annual expenditure of only \$0.0012 on the dollar for the support of the navy.

"It is an ingenious statement, literally correct, but conveying a wholly false impression. It leaves the average reader, who knows nothing further on the